

Tour of Freemasons' Hall

On the 9th May 18 members and guests had a wonderful early-evening guided tour of Freemasons Hall on Great Queen Street, close to Covent Garden. The tour started in the museum, where the Curator, Dr Mark Dennis, showed us the two Loving Cups and other City regalia from the now closed United Wards Lodge 2987, items which had then been passed on to the UWC and are now on permanent loan to the Museum.



789	ROBERT MITCHELL	2946	POR
	ROYAL THAMES	2956	CHA
795	ULSTER	2966	ACC
	UNIVERSITY OF	2972	CER
796	EDINBURGH	2974	EDW
808	KNIGHTSBRIDGE	2978	UNIT
809	UNITED WARDS	2987	WAN
812	FRIERN BARNET	2989	WEST
816	ROYAL KEW	3012	LAVE
817	MIDDLESEX		HERT
818	IMPERIAL YEOMANRY	3013	IMPER
822	FAIRFAX	3014	PERSE
823	LYRIC	3016	LORD I



When our guide, Patrick, took over the tour, Mark chipped in from time to time to highlight additional items of interest as we went around the Museum. We were then led into the antechamber to the Grand Lodge, where we looked at the spectacular window, presented by Lincolnshire Freemasons, with the names of all those Freemasons who were killed during the First World War.

At the culmination of the tour Patrick took us into the Grand Temple, the very heavy doors of which my wife Corinna and Mary Hardy, Senior Vice President, managed to open with just a single finger on each door!



The inside of the temple is fabulous, with the stunning mosaic ceilings is particularly impressive.

It is worth explaining that whilst Freemasons Hall was primarily for men, 2 women's masonic organisations now work together. Perhaps most notable to say that after the Lottery, the Masonic charities are the largest charity in the UK. In London, for example, the masons paid for the air ambulance and the 2 very tall leaders for the London Fire Brigade. Corinna and I met a firefighter in our gym who actually gets a thrill going to the top of the ladder; rather him than me.

Before leaving, we had a group photo as a memento of the occasion and to prove we really had been granted access to this remarkable and exclusive building!



Although some of the group could not stay, some other members and guests joined us for supper at the nearby Côte restaurant; 15 of us had a lovely meal, with free-flowing wines, so we forgot how late it was when we left!

Chris Edge